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INVENTOR(S): Mark A. Kampe, David Penkler and Rebecca A. Ramer

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 8, line 27-36, should read:

Claim 4 The system of claim 3, wherein the viable ones of the member peer nodes only perform the responding when the heartbeat is received within a period of time defined in the configuration data and when not received with the period of time, at least one of the viable ones of the member peer nodes initiates a cluster reformation which includes determining a new master node among the viable ones of the member peer nodes based on the master node priority values.

Claim 5 The system of claim 4, wherein the new master node stores the cluster configuration defining a new set of the peer nodes which are members of the cluster and periodically transmits a heartbeat to each of the peer nodes in the new set of cluster members.

Mailing Address of Sender:
William J. Kubida
Hogan & Hartson LLP
One Tabor Center
1200 17th Street, Suite 1500
Denver, CO 80202

Send to: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450